

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-43. (Cancelled).

44. (Previously presented) A method of making a non-immunogenic construct comprising at least two copies of an epitope of a T-dependent antigen bound to a pharmaceutically acceptable non-immunogenic carrier, which copies bind to a B cell membrane immunoglobulin receptor specific for the epitope but fail to form an immunon, comprising

(a) providing a non-immunogenic soluble carrier that has been subjected to a preparative sizing technique to remove substantially most high molecular weight soluble carrier molecules, wherein the carrier is not poly (D-Glu/D-Lys), and an epitope molecule of a T-dependent antigen;

(b) coupling two or more of the epitope molecules to the non-immunogenic soluble carrier that has been subjected to the preparative sizing technique of step (a) to yield a conjugate preparation; and

(c) subjecting the conjugate preparation to size fractionation to yield a non-immunogenic epitope coupled construct,

thereby yielding a non-immunogenic construct which is free of high molecular weight immunostimulatory molecules.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the epitope comprises a peptide epitope.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the epitope comprises a carbohydrate epitope.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the epitope comprises a nucleic acid.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the nucleic acid comprises a phosphorothioate nucleic acid.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the epitope comprises a glycolipid epitope.

50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the epitope is derived from an allergen.

51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the epitope is derived from an autoimmune antigen.

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the non-immunogenic carrier comprises a dextran, a Ficoll, a carboxymethylcellulose, a polyvinyl alcohol, a synthetic polymer of D amino acids or a polyacrylamide.

53. (Cancelled).

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the non-immunogenic carrier comprises a protein oligomer.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the protein oligomer comprises an immunoglobulin or albumin.

56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein after the preparative sizing technique the non-immunogenic carrier has a molecular weight of less than about 100,000 daltons.

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 56, wherein after the preparative sizing technique the non-immunogenic carrier has a molecular weight of less than about 40,000 daltons.

58. (Cancelled).

59. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the preparative sizing technique comprises size exclusion gel chromatography.

60. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the preparative sizing technique comprises ultrafiltration.

61. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the copies of the epitope are bound to the non-immunogenic carrier by a spacer molecule.

62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the spacer molecule comprises an epsilon amino caproic acid or a delta amino valeric acid.

63. (Cancelled).

64. (Cancelled).

65. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the non-immunogenic construct comprises less than 20 copies of the epitope.

66. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the non-immunogenic construct is immunosuppressive when administered in pharmacologically effective amounts.

67. (Previously presented) The method of claim 66, wherein the non-immunogenic construct suppresses T-cell dependent antibody production.

68. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the non-immunogenic construct is tolerogenic when administered in pharmacologically effective amounts.

69. (Cancelled). ~~A method of making a non-immunogenic construct comprising at least two copies of an epitope of a T-dependent antigen bound to a pharmaceutically acceptable non-immunogenic carrier, wherein construct bound copies of the epitope are capable of binding to a B-cell membrane immunoglobulin receptor specific for the epitope without forming a clustering of B-cell membrane bound receptors, the method comprising~~

- ~~(a) providing a preparation of a non-immunogenic soluble carrier, wherein substantially all high molecular weight soluble carrier molecules have been removed from the preparation and the carrier is not poly (D-Glu/D-Lys), and an epitope of a T-dependent antigen;~~
- ~~(b) coupling the two or more copies of the epitope to the soluble carrier to yield a non-immunogenic epitope-coupled construct; and~~
- ~~(c) subjecting the epitope-coupled construct to size fractionation to yield a non-immunogenic epitope-coupled construct;~~

~~thereby yielding a non-immunogenic epitope-coupled construct which is free of high molecular weight immunostimulatory molecules.~~

70. (Withdrawn) A method of making a non-immunogenic epitope-coupled construct preparation comprising at least two copies of an epitope of a T-dependent antigen bound to a pharmaceutically acceptable non-immunogenic carrier, wherein at least two copies of construct-bound epitope are capable of binding to a B cell membrane immunoglobulin receptor specific for the epitope without forming a clustering of B cell membrane-bound receptors, the method comprising

- (a) providing a soluble carrier and an epitope of a T-dependent antigen;
- (b) coupling the two or more copies of said epitope to the soluble carrier; and,
- (c) removing substantially all immunostimulatory molecules from the product of the reaction of step (b) to generate a non-immunogenic epitope-coupled construct preparation.

71. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 70, wherein the non-immunogenic epitope-coupled construct preparation has a molecular weight of less than about 100,000 daltons.

72. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 71, wherein the non-immunogenic epitope-coupled construct preparation has a molecular weight of less than about 40,000 daltons.

73. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 72, wherein the non-immunogenic epitope-coupled construct preparation has a molecular weight of less than about 20,000 daltons.

74. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 70, wherein substantially all immunostimulatory molecules are removed from the product of the reaction of step (b) by size exclusion gel chromatography.

75. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 70, wherein substantially all immunostimulatory molecules are removed from the product of the reaction of step (b) by ultrafiltration.

76. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 70, wherein the epitope comprises a phosphorothioate nucleic acid.

77. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 70, wherein the epitope is derived from an allergen.

78. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 70, wherein the epitope is derived from an autoimmune antigen.

79. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 70, wherein the non-immunogenic carrier comprises a polyvinyl alcohol, a synthetic polymer of D amino acids or a polyacrylamide.

80. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 70, wherein the copies of the epitope are bound to the carrier by a spacer molecule, wherein the spacer molecule comprises an epsilon amino caproic acid or a delta amino valeric acid.

81. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 70, wherein the non-immunogenic epitope-coupled construct preparation comprises from about 4 to about 30 copies of the epitope.

82. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 81, wherein the non-immunogenic epitope-coupled construct preparation comprises from about 6 to about 14 copies of the epitope.

83. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 70, wherein the non-immunogenic epitope-coupled construct preparation comprises less than about 20 copies of the epitope.

84. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 70, wherein the non-immunogenic construct is immunosuppressive when administered in pharmacologically effective amounts.

85. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 70, wherein the non-immunogenic construct is immunosuppressive to T cells.

86. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 70, wherein the non-immunogenic construct is tolerogenic when administered in pharmacologically effective amounts.

87. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a non-immunogenic construct comprising at least two copies of an epitope of a T-dependent antigen bound to a pharmaceutically acceptable non-immunogenic carrier, wherein at least two copies of construct-bound epitope are capable of binding to a B cell membrane immunoglobulin receptor specific for the epitope without forming a clustering of B cell membrane-bound receptors.